

Swiss Army Keys - Key and Leatherman Mod / Hack

by [pyro222](#) on July 20, 2008

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intro: Swiss Army Keys - Key and Leatherman Mod / Hack

Modify your keys to fit in a leatherman. This is a real clever way to pack some spare keys around. You can fit up to six keys in one mini multi-tool.



step 1: Materials

NOTE: Let me first state that I stumbled on this Idea browsing through the edcforums. There was a post a while back where shadeone had posted some pictures and a short tutorial on building one of these sweet little babies. Check out the [original forums thread](#) started by shadeone here. **I take no credit for originating this idea**, I've just documented my own experience building one. This is a modification to his original half micra design which allows me to keep the pliers and a few tools.

Materials

Leatherman Micra - (I used a cheapo Husky clone that I got at home depot for \$2)

Keys - (be sure to make copies of them first)

Drill

Something to cut the keys with - (I used a Dremel with a cutoff wheel.



step 2: Disassemble the Multi Tool

Start by unscrewing and Disassembling the tool. Make sure you save all of the little parts and washers. Note that I was able to fit 3 keys per side so only undo one side if you are doing 3 keys or less.



step 3: Select a Matchup Piece

Set one piece aside to use to match your key against when you are cutting it.



step 4: Cut Your Keys

Cut down your keys to roughly match the end of the piece you picked in the previous step. You will be drilling a hole in them so be sure and leave as much meat as possible. You can fine tune it later.



step 5: Mark and Drill the Holes

Place each key one at a time inside the tool in the direction you will be placing it and mark the hole with a fine point marker through the hole in the tool. I placed mine teeth down so it is easier to pull them out by hooking a fingernail in the grooves across the top.

Once you have marked all keys, mark your starting points with a punch or nail and drill your holes. The size of the hole may vary depending on what kind of multi tool you choose. Start small as you can always bore it out more if necessary.



step 6: Put it Back Together

Re-assemble the tool substituting the keys for the tools. Be careful of three things. 1) Be sure you put a washer in between any metal-on-metal contact. 2) Make sure you place the keyring attachment piece somewhere where it will not interfere with a key. 3) Most importantly, remember to leave a gap in the middle of each side for the pliers/cutters to fit into when you collapse the tool. (I placed two keys all the way to one side, then a bunch of washers and then a key against the other side.

One little tip: If there is a skinny leather punch or mini screw driver piece, you can stick this through the hole when re-assembling the tool to help keep the washers and the pin in place. This also worked well to wiggle around to get everything to fit together properly.

Check out the the original edcforums post by shadeone. where he came up with this idea back in Aug, 2007. He uses one side of the tool (-the pliers), for a sweet compact key carrier. Also be sure and browse the whole thread where some users have posted some really nice designs. **Mad Props to shadeone for his original design!**

I was thinking for my next attempt to use a slightly wider, folding style alan wrench set and try to get a bunch on each side.

-Pyro222
geek.phatus.com




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Comments

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 **Calon Merc** says: Apr 25, 2009. 8:44 AM [REPLY](#)
On this step, since you commented on liking another's design that could be accessed without opening the tool, couldn't you have gone a step further and switched the sides, or even simply flipped them over? Not sure the exact specs on your tool there, but I had one that I did that too and it works perfectly still.
=]

 **npa4863** says: Mar 20, 2009. 5:41 PM [REPLY](#)
guy do that with a single blade knife so you can cut down on the weight... oh man how about a switch!!! ya or a butterfly, omg I'm doin that... well may be the single blade (switch blades and butter's are illegal in maine)

 **incorrigible packrat** says: Jul 24, 2008. 6:56 AM [REPLY](#)
Neat use for a cheapie Leatherman knock-off! Considering making one myself, but I'd probably need a 37 blade tool, for all the stupid keys I use.
For the car key, I'd suggest leaving a little nub on one of the modified keys, that you could drill an extra hole through. Attach a chain to this, and stick the car key on the end. Maybe even a hook in the middle of the chain, to hang the whole works on the shift stalk (or wiper control stalk, if n you don't have column shift), while driving, to limit stress on the ignition switch.

Funny thing that so many have mentioned airport security. I've attained the ripe old age of almost 35, and have not yet had the need to travel by airplane. I was just wondering, do most people use air travel so often, that there would be a huge problem with Leathermanning their keys?



jakezcop says:

Jul 24, 2008. 10:54 AM [REPLY](#)

im only 13 and i travel by airplane a lot and yeh it probably would cause a problem... i had an electrical box circley thing stuck in my sock and i didnt know, i no seems imposible but i did, and it took them like 10 minuts in security and they had to get like 20 people to come and help and if i was older i prably woulda gotten arested lol.



incorrigible packrat says:

Jul 28, 2008. 6:20 AM [REPLY](#)

I just gotta know why you'd have an electrical box knockout in your sock. Jimmy-ing vending machines perhaps? I *could* make a joke here about what most 13 year olds have stuck in their socks, but decorum prevails...



jakezcop says:

Mar 19, 2009. 1:12 PM [REPLY](#)

i just put em in those candy machines for free candy, most of the time it works, and i had dropped one earlier in the day and i guess it fell in my shoe lol, i really dont know, one of those freak accidents.



Thelonelysandwitch says:

Mar 18, 2009. 5:49 PM [REPLY](#)

dude, you can jimmy old vending machines with saltwater. yes it is possible



jakezcop says:

Mar 19, 2009. 1:12 PM [REPLY](#)

I WANNA NO HOW!!!!



Thelonelysandwitch says:

Mar 19, 2009. 1:17 PM [REPLY](#)

ok, it has to be a very old vending machine. Then all you have to do is pour saltwater into the coin slot. (Coin on a string also works)



jakezcop says:

Mar 22, 2009. 5:23 PM [REPLY](#)

lol yeah i fugured that out after i asked that, i dont wanna get finned so ill stick to the not so destructive methods heh



Thelonelysandwitch says:

Mar 18, 2009. 5:51 PM [REPLY](#)

I love it, great 5*



speckone says:

Jul 24, 2008. 9:42 PM [REPLY](#)

This thing is gonna get me killed by a highway patrolman someday.



Thelonelysandwitch says:

Mar 18, 2009. 5:46 PM [REPLY](#)

dude, my mom, and dads car uses the chip in the key, I wanted to give them one for Christmas.



alex-sharetskiy says:

May 30, 2006. 3:12 PM [REPLY](#)

looks like you just hotwired that car



cry_wolf says:

Aug 23, 2008. 3:02 PM [REPLY](#)

Bahaha dude thats awesome.



R4Man18 says:
hahaha

Aug 20, 2008. 6:39 PM [REPLY](#)

Nice instructable but is pretty heavy so it may screw up your key switch and they are annoying as hell to replace.



fancypenguin845 says:
hey... is that... MY car??? :D

Aug 16, 2008. 8:08 PM [REPLY](#)



DIY Dave says:
i'm planning on making one of these

Aug 9, 2008. 7:11 PM [REPLY](#)



pyro222 says:
hahaha.
Yeah, that doesn't look suspicious at all.
Very Cool!

Jul 27, 2008. 10:14 PM [REPLY](#)



Everlong says:
Haha, that is hilarious! Nice one!

Jul 26, 2008. 3:10 AM [REPLY](#)



=SMART= says:
hahahahaha

Jul 25, 2008. 10:15 AM [REPLY](#)



jdmiike13 says:
lol i love this i made one its crazy im makin another for my lock picks

Jan 5, 2009. 6:55 AM [REPLY](#)



pyro222 says:
That sounds awesome. I would love to see what you come up with.

Feb 18, 2009. 4:31 AM [REPLY](#)



spydude90 says:
if you take this to the air port
they will take it from you

Dec 31, 2008. 11:37 AM [REPLY](#)

cool Instructable



soapy says:
Hide it in your shoe then, next to the explosives. They'll never think to look there. ;-)
Very cool 'ible.

Jan 7, 2009. 4:48 PM [REPLY](#)



disturbedreaper says:
waste of a shoe throw it at ex president bush

Feb 2, 2009. 5:11 PM [REPLY](#)



Coati says:
I had a small generic. leatherman with a light on one side and the light broke so I had to try this. I like the fact that I can use the case with belt loop, it makes it a lot easier to find my keys

Dec 6, 2008. 7:21 PM [REPLY](#)



TekGremlin says:
I like this so much I did one myself. I think I used the same tool. I added three keys and only had to get rid of one blade. Most of the spacers are huge and can be replaced by tiny washers (for some blades I don't use much I left out the spacer). I opened both sides of the tool removed the thick spacers and was able to place 5 blades on one side and three keys plus two blades on the other.

Oct 21, 2008. 3:05 AM [REPLY](#)

PS. Airports are no problem, just put it in your packed luggage, knives are fine there.



pyro222 says:

Dude sweet design!

I especially like that the tool folds in backwards over the pliers leaving access to the keys and blades on the outside. The biggest issue with mine is that I have to open the tool every time to find the dang key. Your setup looks real easy to get to though. That and the chain is just straight pimp bro. Very nice work.

Thanks for posting that. I love checking out what other people come up with.

Oct 21, 2008. 3:30 AM [REPLY](#)



TekGremlin says:

Thanks

I didn't even realize yours folded out the other way. I got mine at Canadian tire in a set that included a flip knife and a mini box cutter for about 10 bucks. As for the chain, I live in Barcelona Spain, and here if it isn't chained to you, someone steals it.

Oct 21, 2008. 9:37 AM [REPLY](#)



gurtek says:

That's awesome man.....

Oct 2, 2008. 11:37 PM [REPLY](#)



DIY Dave says:

Are those kwikset keys in step 1 real?

Sep 15, 2008. 5:27 PM [REPLY](#)



stasys says:

what I would do, is take the spare pieces like corck opener and the other little things that you never use - that would make it into a very useful leather man, cuz yall have the blade in it..

Sep 14, 2008. 9:42 PM [REPLY](#)



zombiehottie0900 says:

pretty much totally awesome

Sep 11, 2008. 5:45 AM [REPLY](#)



jaguar says:

awsome instructable! I love my new key letherman even though now it looks like im always breaking into my house, lol

Sep 8, 2008. 2:26 PM [REPLY](#)



dkbaumbach says:

Hey Pyro-

I've been having problems getting the pins or "rivets" out of the tool. Are they rivets, or screws? Even with two needlenose pliers, I can't get the pins to come out... Any hints?

Jul 22, 2008. 3:35 PM [REPLY](#)



meub says:

hey, I'm having the same problem with the leatherman micra. I think they are rivets. Have you found a solution yet?

Aug 24, 2008. 12:42 PM [REPLY](#)



pyro222 says:

Hey dkbaumbach,

I just notice one of my old multi-tools had rivets instead of screws. Worst case scenario, you could just drill out the rivets and replace it with the proper size nut and bolt.

Jul 30, 2008. 6:40 PM [REPLY](#)



pyro222 says:

hmmm mine were screws. Like where one would screw into a hollow threaded pin. With mine just extracted the one that fed inside the hollow one and then had to jiggle the tools around on it to get the hollow threaded pin to pop out. Are yours not spinning at all? Or have you got one end unscrewed and the pin just won't break loose?

Jul 22, 2008. 6:27 PM [REPLY](#)



thebboy says:

great idea! can i use this on a swiss army knife other than a multi-tool leatherman, cuz i don't have one. 5/5 and favorited.

Aug 15, 2008. 6:07 PM [REPLY](#)



pyro222 says:

Thanks for the feedback thebboy.

I'm not sure if you can use a swiss. I would think in theory you could however I have never pulled the pin out of one before. Perhaps if you pop off the plastic cover plates it would gain you access to extract the pin.

Aug 16, 2008. 1:47 PM [REPLY](#)



thebboy says:

perhaps. i might try it on my old swiss army knife, if i can find it. yup.

Aug 16, 2008. 2:24 PM [REPLY](#)



thinkharder says:

I looked at the TSA website and they allow tools and scissors IN your carry on bags, as long as they are under four inches.

Aug 15, 2008. 4:15 PM [REPLY](#)



bruc33ef says:

Great Idea!

But --- when the TSA confiscates it at the airport security check just as you're about to board your plane, there go your house keys! Best thing to do is get rid of the blade -- at least you'll have a fighting chance.

Jul 20, 2008. 7:51 PM [REPLY](#)



tchiseen says:

The TSA (and any other security firms at the airport) are absolute imbeciles, I wouldn't risk trying to explain to them that you've taken the blade off, as it's unlikely they'd comprehend. As far as they're concerned, nail clippers and bottled water are dangerous weapons.

You'd want to remember to check this - which is a bit of a pain considering how often airlines lose baggage.

I suppose the best thing to do is to make 2 copies of your keys when you go to the shop, it'll only cost you a couple dollars, and having spare spares is never a bad thing.

Jul 20, 2008. 10:22 PM [REPLY](#)



Cyfun says:

Your suggestion of spare keys made me think that making a leatherman key holder would be the perfect thing for stashing your spare keys. just keep it in your sock drawer. unsuspecting people would never guess what it contains.

better yet, steal some rare earth magnets from old hard drives, and use it as a hide-a-key on your car or around the house.

Jul 22, 2008. 6:33 PM [REPLY](#)



WingDings says:

Great idea - love it!

Aug 10, 2008. 7:29 AM [REPLY](#)



sk8erdude says:

this is just pure genius 5 star and favorited awesome!

Aug 7, 2008. 11:10 AM [REPLY](#)



illdoyourdrugs says:

Ha ha Great job man. Awesome idea, like it a lot.

Aug 2, 2008. 11:23 AM [REPLY](#)



buster42 says:

I do like the concept but getting your keys through airport security will be a problem.

Jul 24, 2008. 8:15 PM [REPLY](#)

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